



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren And Other Relative Caregivers



Macomb County Dept. of Senior Citizen Services

Counseling Program

October-November, 2007

GRG CALENDER OF EVENTS

- * **Support Group - VerKuijen Bldg.**
October 17th, 7-9 p.m.
November 21st 7-9 p.m.
(childcare provided)
 - * **Support Group - Mt. Calvary**
October 23rd, 6-8 p.m.
November 27th, 6-8 p.m.
(childcare provided for ages 3 and up)
 - * **GRG Halloween Party**
October 19th 7-9 p.m.
 - * **Free Children's Health Fair**
Sports & Expo Center
12 Mile, Warren
October 20th 12-4 p.m.
 - * **Happy Halloween**
October 31st
-
- End of Daylight Savings Time**
November 4th

- * **Veteran's Day**
November 12th
- * **Happy Thanksgiving**
November 22nd
- * **GRG Christmas Party**
DeCarlo's Banquet & Convention Center
Friday, November 23rd
6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
- ## GRG NEWS
- Many of you may have noticed that one of our Kinship Care Coordinators, Kathleen Bayer, has not been at some of our recent events. As of August 2007, Kathleen has resigned from her position with GRG to pursue a different path in her life. GRG would like to take this time to thank Kathleen for all of her services, hard work and friendship towards the GRG team and the GRG families. We will miss her. Our new Kinship Coordinator, Christine Sine, will be starting on October 2. We would like to welcome her to GRG.
- ## GRG CAMP
- Camp was a huge success. We had 105 people attend this year's camp and everyone had a great time. Thank you to all of you who took the time to fill out our camp evaluation. Our thanks again go out to Macomb Together for raising the funds. They were able to raise enough money to pay for next year so please keep a look out in the spring newsletter for next year's camp information. We are hoping for an even larger turnout. There was plenty of space and we always welcome new families. It's amazing what a little retreat can do for you.
- ## GRG HALLOWEEN PARTY
- Please join us for a spooky time on Friday, October 19th for our GRG Halloween Party. We would like to ask everyone to bring a dessert to share as well as a bag of treats for all of the hungry ghosts and goblins that will be trick or treating during this event. Contact Ann Wagner at 586-469-7826 for information. Ann is currently seeking volunteers to help make this event a success. (see attached flyer).
-
-
- ## GRG CHRISTMAS PARTY
- It's that time of year already. The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren annual Christmas party will be held on Friday, November 23rd from 6-10 p.m. at DeCarlo's Banquet and Convention Center. DeCarlo's and County Commissioners from Warren: Marvin Sauger, Andrey Duzyj, Joan Flynn, Jon Switalski, Betty Slinde and Susan Doherty have graciously offered to sponsor our 2007 Christmas Party. This event is for GRG families only.
- A buffet dinner will be provided and Santa will be there. Please don't forget to RSVP to Ann Wagner. Space is limited so detach the bottom of the enclosed flyer and mail it in to Ann a.s.a.p. See attached flyer for further details.
- ## KINSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
- Many of you received a letter regarding the Kinship Assistance Grant provided through the state of Michigan. The latest information on this is that the funds have been depleted. However, Lansing is accepting applications in case additional funds become available. If you have already applied for these funds, Lansing will

hold your application for future use. If you have not applied and are interested in applying, contact Ann Wagner at 586-469-7826.

HOW TO RESOLVE CONFLICT QUICKLY & REASONABLY (Parent Magic) www.parentmagic.com

As a parent we have to learn several things: (1) quick and reasonable conflict resolution is critical when dealing with children, (2) letting mini-conflicts become maxi-conflicts on a regular basis is very destructive to a child's development, and (3) a lot of parental chattering usually makes conflicts worse.

So how do you resolve squabbles quickly and reasonably? You need to stop and think a little bit and then come up with a plan. You can use one very simple kind of conflict resolution plan when you want your kids to *stop doing something obnoxious*, such as arguing, whining, fighting or tantruming. On the other hand, when you want your youngsters to *start doing something positive*, such as going to bed, eating, doing homework or picking up, you should put together some regular routines to handle these problems.

What's the plan for dealing with conflict based on obnoxious behavior? It's simple: explain—if necessary—first, then if an explanation doesn't work, count. Your daughter, for example, wants a Twinkie right before dinner. You calmly said "No" and explained your reasoning. She pushes the issue, though, and starts whining. Is another explanation going to pacify her? Not very likely! That kind of parental babbling, remember, is how mini-conflicts become maxi-conflicts. Instead, you hold up one finger and say, "That's 1." That's her first warning that she's out of line. If she hits a "2" and then a "3", there will be a consequence. If she stops at 1 or 2, fine.

Sound too simple? It takes about two hours to learn how to count properly and to have all your questions answered about the procedure.

What about encouraging good behavior? You want to set up routines for things like bedtime, mealtimes, cleaning rooms and getting up and out in the morning. Your routines will consist of tactics such as praise, kitchen timers, The Docking System, natural consequences, and charting. Routines minimize conflict because you don't have to discuss and explain each time why something needs to get done.

What if the kids argue with you about a routine? They get counted.

Are you feeling like a total dictator at this point? Relax. Keep in mind that good parents should be demanding—they should expect good behavior from their kids. But good parents also are warm and friendly. They regularly listen to their children and have fun with them.

Minimizing conflict means knowing how to handle your three parenting jobs: controlling difficult behavior, encouraging good behavior and strengthening your relationships with your youngsters. Don't you wish there were a guidebook for this?

There is: 1-2-3 Magic: Effective Discipline for Children 2-12. The 1-2-3 Magic book just sold its one millionth copy in August.

FREE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS AT MACOMB COUNTY LIBRARY

For the following programs contact the Macomb County Library directly at 586-286-6660.

Little Creatures with Dan Briere - Dan will bring live animals—You never know what creature might turn up with Dan Brier of Little Creatures. You can expect to see creatures such as parrots, chinchilla, tarantula, turtles, alligator, and maybe even a chameleon or two.

Sat, October 27th @ 2 p.m. Recommended for ages 5- 12.

Children's Beginning Knitting - Learn to knit. A teacher from Crafty Lady Trio shop will show you the basics of knitting. Knitting needles and yarn are provided.

Sat, November 17th @ 2 p.m. Recommended for ages 8 to 12.

Children's Yoga - Develop balance, flexibility, strength and self esteem for any activity you do. Yoga helps you deal with stress too. Yoga instructor James Abney for New Reflections Fitness will teach children yoga basics.

Sat, November 24th @ 2 p.m. Recommended for ages 5 to 12.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH FAIR

The Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center located on 12 Mile and Hayes in Warren will be holding a FREE Children's Health Fair on October 20th from 12-4 p.m. Vision and hearing screenings, immunizations, information tables, crafts and a lot of fun activities for the kids will be among the many things that will be offered. Watch for information to come home in your child's backpack.

If you have any questions or suggestions, call:

Mary Potts, Kinship Coordinator	586-469-6315
Bobbi Knapp, LPC, Sr. Counselor	586-469-6708
Sharon LeDuc, Counselor	586-493-0664
Linda Savoyard, Counselor	586-493-0664
Ann Wagner, Clerical Support	586-469-7826

e-mail: Ann.Wagner@macombcountymi.gov

Funding Provided by Macomb County Department of Human Services and Macomb County Board of Commissioners

Have a Safe and Happy Halloween & Thanksgiving

